

1. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus for anchoring a tubular element within a passageway formed in a mammalian body, the passageway having a wall with an inner surface, the apparatus comprising:

a) a tubular element comprising a hollow tubular outer lumen having a proximal end and a distal end;

b) a deployment element [means] positioned within the outer lumen and slidable with respect to the outer lumen, the deployment element [means] comprising a hollow tubular inner lumen with a wall having an inner surface, where the inner lumen has a proximal end and a distal end, and where the inner lumen has a bore extending completely through the inner lumen from the proximal end to the distal end; and,

c) a plurality of resilient anchoring members attached to the distal end of the inner lumen and extending longitudinally beyond the distal end of the inner lumen, each anchoring member being reversibly movable by the deployment element [means] between a first position and a second position, where in the first position, at least a portion of each anchoring member is retracted within the outer lumen, and where in the second position, at least a portion of each anchoring member is deployed exteriorly to the outer lumen, so as to engage the inner surface of the mammalian passageway and anchor the tubular element in the passageway.

2. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, where the tubular element is a catheter.

7. (Twice Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, where the deployment element [means] further comprises a guide wire having

a proximal end and a distal end, and where the inner lumen is a collar member attached to the distal end of the guide wire.

8. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, where the anchoring members comprise a pseudoelastic material.

9. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, where the pseudoelastic material is a nickel titanium alloy.

10. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, where the anchoring members comprise spring steel.

11. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, where the plurality of resilient anchoring members comprises two anchoring members.

22. (Previously Amended) A method for anchoring a tubular element within a passageway formed in a mammalian body, the passageway having an inner surface, the method comprising:

- a) providing the apparatus of claim 1;
- b) positioning the apparatus at a selected location within the passageway; and
- c) deploying at least a portion of anchoring members against the inner surface of the passageway thereby anchoring the tubular element within the passageway at the selected location.

24. The apparatus of claim 1, where the anchoring members are attached within the wall of the inner lumen.

25. The apparatus of claim 1, where the anchoring members are attached to the inner surface of the wall of the inner lumen.

26. The apparatus of claim 1, where the anchoring members are substantially oval in cross-section.

27. The apparatus of claim 1, where the anchoring members have a top portion and the top portion is substantially flat.

28. (Amended) An apparatus for anchoring a tubular element within a passageway formed in a mammalian body, the passageway having a wall with an inner surface, the apparatus comprising:

a) a tubular element comprising a hollow tubular outer lumen having a proximal end and a distal end;

b) a deployment element [means] comprise a pseudoelastic material.

32. The apparatus of claim 31, where the pseudoelastic material is a nickel titanium alloy.

33. The apparatus of claim 28, where the anchoring members comprise spring steel.

34. The apparatus of claim 28, where the plurality of resilient anchoring members comprises two anchoring members.

35. A method for anchoring a tubular element within a passageway formed in a mammalian body, the passageway having an inner surface, the method comprising:

a) providing the apparatus of claim 28;

b) positioning the apparatus at a selected location within the passageway; and

c) deploying at least a portion of anchoring members against the inner surface of the passageway thereby anchoring the tubular element within the passageway at the selected location.

36. The apparatus of claim 28, where the anchoring members are substantially oval in cross-section.

37. The apparatus of claim 28, where the anchoring members have a top portion and the top portion is substantially flat.

38. (Amended) An apparatus for anchoring a tubular element within a passageway formed in a mammalian body, the passageway

having a wall with an inner surface, the apparatus comprising:

a) a tubular element comprising a hollow tubular outer lumen having a proximal end and a distal end;

b) a deployment element [means] positioned within the outer lumen and slidable with respect to the outer lumen, the deployment element [means] comprising a hollow tubular inner lumen with a wall having an inner surface, where the inner lumen has a proximal end and a distal end, and where the inner lumen has a bore extending completely through the inner lumen from the proximal end to the distal end; and,

c) a plurality of resilient anchoring members attached to the inner surface of the wall of the inner lumen and extending longitudinally beyond the distal end of the inner lumen, each anchoring member being reversibly movable by the deployment element [means] between a first position and a second position, where in the first position, at least a portion of each anchoring member is retracted within the outer lumen, and where in the second position, at least a portion of each anchoring member is deployed exteriorly to the outer lumen, so as to engage the inner surface of the mammalian passageway and anchor the tubular element in the passageway.

39. The apparatus of claim 38, where the tubular element is a catheter.

40. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 38, where the deployment element [means] further comprises a guide wire having a proximal end and a distal end, and where the inner lumen is a collar member attached to the distal end of the guide wire.

41. The apparatus of claim 38, where the anchoring members comprise a pseudoelastic material.

42. The apparatus of claim 41, where the pseudoelastic material is a nickel titanium alloy.

43. The apparatus of claim 38, where the anchoring members comprise spring steel.

44. The apparatus of claim 38, where the plurality of resilient anchoring members comprises two anchoring members.

45. A method for anchoring a tubular element within a passageway formed in a mammalian body, the passageway having an inner surface, the method comprising:

a) providing the apparatus of claim 38;

b) positioning the apparatus at a selected location within the passageway; and

c) deploying at least a portion of anchoring members against the inner surface of the passageway thereby anchoring the tubular element within the passageway at the selected location.

46. The apparatus of claim 38, where the anchoring members are substantially oval in cross-section.

47. The apparatus of claim 38, where the anchoring members have a top portion and the top portion is substantially flat.

Please cancel claims 48-59.

REMARKS

This Response is to the Office Action dated January 23, 2001 directed to claims 1, 2, 7-11, 22 and 24-59. By the